Message Text

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UNCLAS WINNIPEG 0358

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJ: NORTH DAKOTA STATE SENATOR CRITICIZES PREMIER LYON'S

GARRISON APPEAL REF: WINNIPEG 272

IN A WINNIPEG FREE PRESS INTERVIEW TUESDAY 8/1 IN BISMARCK, N.D., NORTH DAKOTA STATE SENATOR S.F. HOFFNER CRITICIZED MANITOBA PREMIER STERLING LYON FOR WRITING TO WASHINGTON REQUESTING A BAN ON FURTHER GARRISON PROJECT FUNDING INSTEAD OF CONSULTING DIRECTLY WITH NORTH DAKOTA. SENATOR HOFFNER CONTENDED THAT THE GARRISON DIVERSION PROJECT QUOTE HAS NO EFFECT WHATSOEVER ON MANITOBA WATERS UNQUOTE, SOMETHING, HE ADDED, WHICH N.D. GOVERNOR ARTHUR A. LINK COULD HAVE PROVEN TO PREMIER LYON IF ONLY THE LATTER HAD CONSULTED HIM FIRST. NOW, CLAIMED MR. HOFFNER, THE CHANCES OF GARRISON GAINING ADDITIONAL FUNDING HAVE BEEN DAMAGED AS PREMIER LYON'S LETTERS HAVE AIDED WASHINGTON OPPONENTS OF THE PROJECT.

2. SENATOR HOFFNER PROPOSED A MEETING BETWEEN MANITOBA AND NORTH DAKOTA OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE GARRISON PROJECT. REACTING TO THE PROPOSAL, IN PREMIER LYON S ABSENCE, MANITOBA ENVIRONMENTN MINISTER BRIAN RANSOM WAS QUOTED AS SAYING HE COULD SEE NO REASON NOT TO MEET INFORMALLY TO DISCUSS MUTUAL CONCERNS SO UNCLASSIFIED

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LONG AS ANY DISCUSSION OF IJC PROPOSALS ON GARRISON ARE KEPT IN PROPER CHANNELS.

3. COMMENT: CONOFF SPOKE WITH SENATOR HOFFNER ON 8/3 AND HE CONFIRMED THE ESSENCE OF HIS REPORTED REMARKS. MR. HOFFNER SAID HE BELIEVES HE CAN PERSUADE GOVERNOR LINK TO MEET WITH PREMIER LYON AND THAT THIS PERSONAL MEETING WILL CLEAR SOME OF

THE MISCONCEPTIONS WHICH MANITOBA HAS OVER THE GARRISON PROJECT. SENATOR HOFFNER MENTIONED IN PARTICULAR THE INCORPORATION OF FISH TRAPS IN ANY IRRIGATION SCHEME, A PROPOSAL WHICH THE MANITOBA GOVERNMENT HAS PREVIOUSLY REJECTED. CONOFF ALSO CONFIRMED WITH MANITOBA ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN MUCH INFORMAL TALKS, PREMIER LYON, OF COURSE, WILL MAKE THE FINAL DECISION. THUS, THE COMBINATION OF NORTH DAKOTA DESIRE AND MANITOBA WILLINGNESS MAY LEAD TO SOME MEETING IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AT A MINIMUM SUCH TALKS SHOULD ALLOW FOR THE PROVERBIAL FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND A CLEARER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCERNS OF BOTH PARTIES. END COMMENT.

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